

April 12th 2010
Namaste Members

Re: Volunteer Engagement

At the AGM I had mandated the new executive to look at ways on how we can engage more volunteers. To that end a new volunteer committee has been formed that will address this important issue.

The time is right to look at how our Mandals' key human resource - *volunteers* - are engaged and managed within our Mandal. Volunteer management is about relationship building. In order to be strategic about volunteer engagement, the relationship that is built and nurtured should be between the volunteer and the Mandal's membership. This warrants a discussion about how our Mandal ensures that this happens.

We need to do a perception check regarding volunteer engagement in our Mandal. Volunteers were once seen as a 'nice to have' in the Mandal. However, based on the current realities, they are a 'need to have'.

Is our volunteer base healthy? What do you think needs to be done in order to retain this base? What is our vision of volunteer engagement for our Mandal. In order to keep volunteers engaged, our Mandal needs to think not only about how we recruit volunteers but how we retain them as well.

We need to discuss the importance of understanding trends in volunteer engagement and how it will affect our Mandal in one year? Five years? In order for the work of the volunteer Committee to be strategic, the support of the Mandal membership is required. In order to be successful when engaging volunteers, everyone in the Mandal needs to value the role of volunteers and believe that volunteers help in achieving the mission of the Mandal.

Several discussions have already been held at various levels of the executive as well as with key members of the community to start forming a strategic plan that will provide clear guidance on volunteers and the Mandal.

Did you know that 52% of Albertan volunteers. Are you one of them? If not please consider volunteering for the Mandal.

Jai Shri Krishna

Davendra Patel
President
Gujarati Mandal of Calgary
info@gujaratimandalcalgary.ca